D 9688 (c)

FM. 2
G. 1-40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. REGISTRY
D 9658(C)

Special Branch - S.I. Station,

REPORT

Date September 30, 1940

Subject Otto C. HELLMUTH, German born Argentinian.

Made by D. S. I. Fitts. Forwarded by D. I. Crawford.

Comm. of P. Sp.
R. W. Forke
D.C. Sp. Br.
3/9.

Otto C. HELLMUTH was born in Germany of German parents some 51 years ago. At the age of fifteen he proceeded to Buenos Aires where he has lived the greater part of his life. He is now an Argentine citizen, having acquired that nationality through naturalization many years ago. He speaks excellent French, English with a marked German accent, Spanish and, of course, German. He came to Shanghai just two years ago and since that time has been residing at the Park Hotel, Bubbling Well Road. During this period he has made numerous trips to ~~Hongkong~~ Japan and an occasional one to Hongkong ostensibly on business purposes. At present he is in Japan but is expected to return at any time. He last left this port in the ss. Nitta Maru on July 26, 1940.

Even when he is away from Shanghai, his suite - No. 403 - at the Park Hotel is reserved for his sole use.

He arrived in Shanghai as a director, special delegate and adviser of Messrs. STERNS Ltd., London, on behalf of whose interests he had been instructed to increase the volume of commerce effected by this concern in the Far East. Messrs. STERNS Ltd. are large-scale manufacturers of lubricating oils and greases and though the concern is a British company it is said in well-informed local quarters that the organization is or was controlled by German interests.

30 SEP 1940
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FILE

File No.....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

REPORT

Date.....19

2

Subject.....

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Messrs. STERNS Ltd. have been in the China market for several years and at one period carried large contracts for the supply of oil and grease to the Chinese National Government, most of their orders emanating from the Chinese railways. During the past two and three years, however, it would seem that the volume of traffic enjoyed by this company in China has greatly decreased while their interests with Japan have, on the other hand, steadily increased.

In charge of the agency of this organization in this part of the world was the German concern of Messrs. CARLOWITZ & Co., but upon the outbreak of the current European conflict, the agency was taken over by a Frenchman, R. F. PIRARD, residing at 2, Midget Apartments, 115 route Ferguson. He has an office in the National Commercial Bank Building, 406 Kiangse Road.

Some doubt now exists as to whether HELLMUTH is any longer connected with Messrs. STERNS Ltd. That he is still interested in the oil business is quite certain but on whose behalf is at present a little obscure. Before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe associated with him were PIRARD and a Russian, N. V. OBOLSKY, who was formerly employed in the oil-department of Messrs. CARLOWITZ & CO. OBOLSKY resides at Flat 1, Liberty Apartments, rue Maresca. It is known that HELLMUTH is still in contact with these two individuals.

FM. 2
G. 40M-1-40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

.....Station,

REPORT

3

Date.....19

Subject.....

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HELLMUTH, who is either a bachelor or a widower, always appears to be well supplied with funds. He lives quietly though well but, apart from the society of a comely young Russian girl introduced to him by OBOLSKY, mixes very little in local circles. He has few German friends as one would expect but he has been heard to say on more than one occasion that though he was no longer a German, at heart he still remained so and fully expected to see the Nazis emerge victorious from the present conflict. He gives one the impression of being pro-German in his outlook upon world affairs.

He was in Hongkong just after the outbreak of war between Germany and Great Britain and, it is said, had a bad motoring accident there in which he was injured. In certain circles in Shanghai it is felt that had he been working at that time on behalf of German interests the Colony authorities would have taken steps to have had him detained.

Should any further information come to the notice of this office regarding HELLMUTH, a subsequent report will be immediately submitted.

G. Pikes

D.S.I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

CTH

J.M. 2
G. 90M-1-39

File No. [illegible]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section I, Special Branch. Station,

REPORT

Date January 17, 1940.

Subject. Otto Hellmuth.

Made by D.P.S. Killingbeck. Forwarded by D. I. Crawford.

With reference to an enquiry regarding one Otto HELLMUTH, this man has for some considerable time occupied a suite at the Park Hotel and is registered there as an Argentine Subject. He is frequently away from Shanghai, apparently on business trips most of which take him to Japan. He is reported to be engaged in the oil and petrol trade and has some connection with the firm of Carlowitz & Co., Shanghai. It is believed that most of his mail is received through this firm but mail, mainly from Japan, is addressed to him at the Park Hotel. This mail consists greatly of correspondence apparently of a business nature.

It is reported that Hellmuth is a fluent German and French linguist.

JKillingbeck
D. P. S.

A. C. (Special Branch).